



Web Site: <http://evans.carson.amedd.army.mil/Peds/index.htm>

PEDIATRIC CLINIC PATIENT EDUCATION HANDOUTS

Geographic Tongue

DESCRIPTION

- The tongue develops smooth red patches of various shapes and sizes.
- The pattern resembles a map and can change from week to week.
- The bare spots are painless, and the sense of taste is preserved.
- The condition usually occurs in children under age 6.

CAUSE

The cause is unknown, but it is *not* due to a vitamin deficiency.

EXPECTED COURSE

The tongue returns to normal appearance after a period of months to years.

HOME CARE

The condition is harmless. *No treatment* is helpful or necessary.